RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 25th August, 2004/3 Bhadrapada, 1926 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MOTION UNDER RULE 267 TO SUSPEND QUESTION HOUR

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): Hon. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I beg to move the following Motion:

> "That in pursuance of Rule 267 of the Rules of Procedure and conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, this House do suspend Rule 38 of the said rule in its application in order to take up consideration and return of the Appropriation (Railways) No. 3 Bill, 2004 as passed by the Lok Sabha."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Electrification of villages in Uttar Pradesh

*421 SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of villages in Uttar Pradesh where electrification is yet to be done,

(b) the details of Government's rural electrification scheme: and

(c) by when electrification work in all the villages in Uttar Pradesh will be done by Government?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) In Uttar Pradesh, there are 40080 villages yet to be electrified as on 31.03.04.

(b) To achieve the objective of the National Common Minimum Programme of completing rural household electrification in five years a new strategy has been drawn up, which envisages:

(i) Creation of Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB) of 33/11 KV substations, with at least one such substation in each block appropriately networked and linked to the State transmission system

(ii) Creation of Village Electricity Infrastructure (VEI) by providing Distribution Transformer(s) with at least one such transformer in every village.

(iii) Rural Households Electrification of unelectrified households from village distribution transformer(s).

(iv) Decentralized distributed generation system for such villages where grid-connectivity is either not feasible or not cost effective.

(c) Uttar Pradesh has been advised to target completion of village electrification by the end of the 10th Plan.

1000 MV power plant in Maharashtra

*422. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NTPC had decided to set up a 1000 MW power plant at Mauda in Nagpur district of Maharashtra and so far about Rs. one crore has already been spent;

(b) the present status of this power project and by when it is likely to be completed; and

(c) the total deficit of power in Vidarbha and Marathwada regions of Maharashtra and what steps are proposed to be taken to meet the total demand?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) NTPC has identified a site for development of a 1000 MW power plant at Mauda in Nagpur District of Maharashtra. Works for various site specific studies